

in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project. The project will treat and recycle wastewater generated by the city of Waco and six neighboring communities. Similar legislation was passed by the House under suspension of the rules in the 109th and 110th Congresses.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1120, and I commend the bill's sponsor, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, for his persistence and hard work to secure authorization for this very important project.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Democratic bill manager has adequately explained this bill, which authorizes limited Federal participation in a water reuse project in McLennan County, Texas. We have no objection to this well-intended bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of this act, to our colleague, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for her courtesy and for her kind comments and support for this legislation and for her leadership on the committee.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and Nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. That is why I introduced H.R. 1120, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2009.

This bill will authorize approximately \$8 million in Federal funds to help build an innovative water recycling program in partnership with my hometown of Waco, Texas, and with several neighboring communities. It supports efforts to manage water resources efficiently in McLennan County by strategically locating regional satellite water treatment plants that will not only provide for the conservation of our community's water supply but will also reduce costs to the taxpayers.

This project can provide up to 10 million gallons per day of reused water, thereby reducing the water demand on Lake Waco. Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses in July and August in Texas, which doesn't make much sense, we will be able to use lower-cost recycled wastewater for those purposes, and will be able to save enough drinking water for over 20,000 households.

The bottom line is this: By being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses and for working families. It will save taxpayers millions of dollars, and it will encourage economic growth and jobs.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member HASTINGS for their support of this measure, and I want to thank the subcommittee chairwoman, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and the

ranking subcommittee member, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, for their key roles in this bill's passage.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, is a kind of effort that shows what Congress can do when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I also want to thank the mayors, city council and staff from the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead, and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that brought us here today.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to Waco's city manager, Larry Groth, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without his leadership and that of his staff's, without their hard work and professionalism, we would not be here today. As a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his and his staff's outstanding service to my hometown.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1120.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I will just reaffirm the support that this bill has from our side of the aisle, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1120.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1393) to amend the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize additional projects and activities under that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1393

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UNDER THE LOWER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.—Section 4(a) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(20) In Cameron County, Texas, Bayview Irrigation District No. 11, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the March 3, 2004, engineering report by NRS Consulting Engineers at a cost of \$1,425,219.

"(21) In the Cameron County, Texas, Brownsville Irrigation District, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the February 11, 2004, engineering report by NRS Consulting Engineers at a cost of \$722,100.

"(22) In the Cameron County, Texas, Harlingen Irrigation District No. 1, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$4,173,950.

"(23) In the Cameron County, Texas, Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the February 11, 2004, engineering report by NRS Consulting Engineers at a cost of \$8,269,576.

"(24) In the Cameron County, Texas, Cameron County Irrigation District No. 6, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in an engineering report by Turner Collie Braden, Inc., at a cost of \$5,607,300.

"(25) In the Cameron County, Texas, Adams Gardens Irrigation District No. 19, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$2,500,000.

"(26) In the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas, Hidalgo and Cameron Counties Irrigation District No. 9, water conservation and improvement projects as identified by the February 11 engineering report by NRS Consulting Engineers at a cost of \$8,929,152.

"(27) In the Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas, Delta Lake Irrigation District, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$8,000,000.

"(28) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, a water conservation and improvement project identified in the engineering reports attached to a letter dated February 11, 2004, from the district's general manager, at a cost of \$5,312,475.

"(29) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 1, water conservation and improvement projects identified in an engineering report dated March 5, 2004, by Melden and Hunt, Inc. at a cost of \$5,595,018.

"(30) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 6, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$3,450,000.

"(31) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Santa Cruz Irrigation District No. 15, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in an engineering report dated March 5, 2004, by Melden and Hunt at a cost of \$4,609,000.

"(32) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Engelman Irrigation District, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in an engineering report dated March 5, 2004, by Melden and Hunt, Inc. at a cost of \$2,251,480.

"(33) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Valley Acres Water District, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in an engineering report dated March 2004 by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$500,000.

"(34) In the Hudspeth County, Texas, Hudspeth County Conservation and Reclamation District No. 1, water conservation and improvement projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$1,500,000.

"(35) In the El Paso County, Texas, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, water conservation and improvement

projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$10,500,000.

“(36) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Donna Irrigation District, water conservation and improvement projects identified in an engineering report dated March 22, 2004, by Melden and Hunt, Inc. at a cost of \$2,500,000.

“(37) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 16, water conservation and improvement projects identified in an engineering report dated March 22, 2004, by Melden and Hunt, Inc. at a cost of \$2,800,000.

“(38) The United Irrigation District of Hidalgo County water conservation and improvement projects as identified in a March 2004 engineering report by Sigler Winston, Greenwood and Associates at a cost of \$6,067,021.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES TO CONSERVE WATER OR IMPROVE SUPPLY; TRANSFERS AMONG PROJECTS.—Section 4 of such Act (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067) is further amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e), and by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES TO CONSERVE WATER OR IMPROVE SUPPLY.—In addition to the activities identified in the engineering reports referred to in subsection (a), each project that the Secretary conducts or participates in under subsection (a) may include any of the following:

“(1) The replacement of irrigation canals and lateral canals with buried pipelines.

“(2) The impervious lining of irrigation canals and lateral canals.

“(3) Installation of water level, flow measurement, pump control, and telemetry systems.

“(4) The renovation and replacement of pumping plants.

“(5) Other activities that will result in the conservation of water or an improved supply of water.

“(d) TRANSFERS AMONG PROJECTS.—Of amounts made available for a project referred to in any of paragraphs (20) through (38) of subsection (a), the Secretary may transfer and use for another such project up to 10 percent.”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOWER RIO GRANDE CONSTRUCTION.

Section 4(e) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067), as redesignated by section 2(b) of this Act, is further amended by inserting before the period the following: “for projects referred to in paragraphs (1) through (19) of subsection (a), and \$42,356,145 (2004 dollars) for projects referred to in paragraphs (20) through (38) of subsection (a)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1393 amends the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2009 to authorize the construction of several water conservation projects in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Hudspeth, and El Paso Counties in Texas. I commend the bill's sponsor, Mr. HINOJOSA, for bringing this measure to our attention. I urge the passage of this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1393. The Democratic bill manager has adequately explained this bill, which has passed the House in the last two Congresses in one form or another.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I now want to yield as much time as he might consume to the sponsor of the bill, to my classmate, Mr. RUBÉN HINOJOSA of Texas.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from my wonderful congressional class of 1996 for giving me this time and opportunity to speak about an issue that is very important to us in Texas.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1393, a bill that will authorize a variety of water conservation projects, including several in my congressional district in Texas and other projects all the way up to El Paso.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member HASTINGS for bringing the legislation to the floor.

I represent a region of the country that is subject to periodic droughts but yet is experiencing phenomenal population growth. When I came to Congress in 1997, we had 7 years of drought that made it impossible for our farmers to be able to make a profit. The 2000 census showed that the population of Hidalgo County, in my congressional district, increased by 48 percent. The 2010 census is expected to show a very similar growth of 48 to 50 percent.

On the Mexican side of the border, millions have come to work in the maquiladoras to take advantage of the economic boom that has come from NAFTA. This growth has placed an enormous strain on water delivery systems along the Texas-Mexico border.

Agriculture irrigation water often flows through open dirt ditches, and studies show that much is lost to seepage. Much of it is also lost to evaporation. Municipalities rely on the water from the irrigation delivery systems to meet the water needs of growing communities.

This bill, H.R. 1393, will authorize 19 projects that will allow border water districts to continue upgrading and modernizing our antiquated water delivery systems through the installation of water pipes—PVC pipes and canal linings. That is what we have been doing during the last 10 years, saving anywhere from 38 to 42 percent of water that we would have lost to seepage and evaporation. Similar projects

were authorized in the 106th and 107th Congresses. This identical bill was passed in the 109th and 110th Congresses, but it has always stalled in the Senate. I am hoping that the third time is the charm.

We have already made a great deal of progress because this has been a collaborative effort. The irrigation districts have provided matching funds. The Texas Water Development Board and Texas A&M University have paid for many of the engineering studies. Federal appropriators have provided close to \$20 million for previously authorized projects. These funds are being put to good use. Numerous projects are already under way, and some are almost completed.

Mr. Speaker, as a result, we are seeing a water savings of as high as 80 percent in the projects that have been completed. When the metering system is fully installed, irrigation districts have a much clearer picture of water usage and of water savings. This type of investment is bringing us the state of the art in irrigation systems in agricultural regions like the ones we have in deep south Texas. This data will be vital to improving water management throughout our region.

Most importantly, Federal authorization has allowed us to tap into the resources of the North American Development Bank. To date, NADBank has approved almost \$24 million for these kinds of projects, and the passage of H.R. 1393 will make these new projects eligible for NADBank assistance.

In closing, I wish to say that, as south Texas moves back into a drought cycle, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1393.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1393.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

LAND GRANT PATENT MODIFICATION

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1280) to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1280

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,